

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02233 200909Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-05  
PA-01 /065 W  
-----059442 201024Z /10

R 200851Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9953

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2233

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, KS, US  
SUBJ: ROK PRESS TREATMENT OF AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S MEETING WITH  
FONMIN

REF: A) SEOUL 2190, B) SEOUL 2191

1. KOREAN PRESS MARCH 18 CARRIED REPORT OF AMBASSADOR'S  
MARCH 17 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAK, CLAIMING DIS-  
CUSSIONS HAD COVERED, AS TONGA ILBO PUT IT: "PENDING MATTERS  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE PROSPECT FOR THE  
CONGRESSIONAL DISPOSAL OF A BILL ON A \$800 MILLION US  
ARMS TRANSFER TO KOREA, THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
PARK TONGSUN CASE, AND THE MOVEMENTS OF THE FRASER HOUSE  
SUBCOMMITTEE." ARTICLE CONTINUES: "ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS OF  
THE PAK-SNEIDER TALKS WERE MADE KNOWN IMMEDIATELY, MINISTER  
PAK WAS LEARNED TO HAVE CONVEYED THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S  
POSITION THAT SEOUL WAS OPPOSED TO SETTING A BAD PRECEDENT  
IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES AND LAWS, NOTABLY  
THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN TERMS OF  
TESTIMONY OF KOREAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FORMER KOREAN  
AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON KIM TONG-CHO. MINISTER PAK WAS  
LEARNED TO HAVE ADDITIONALLY DELIVERED THE RESPONSE OF  
THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE FRASER SUBCO-  
MMITTEE HAD BEEN BENT ON CRITICISM OF KOREA WITH PREJUDICE  
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LACKING OBJECTIVITY."

2. TONGA ADDS THAT PAK HAD MET REPORTERS BEFORE SEEING THE  
AMBASSADOR AND HAD REMARKED THAT "UNDERSTANDING OF  
KOREA ON THE PART OF THE US HAS BEEN IMPROVING RAPIDLY  
SINCE PARK TONGSUN WENT TO THE US.... HOWEVER IT APPEARS  
LIKELY THAT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE US CONGRESS IN RELATION

TO THE PARK TONGSUN CASE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE OFF-YEAR ELECTION IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR."

3. PRESS ACCOUNT OF MEETING IS OF COURSE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE (REFTELS) AND DIFFERS, FURTHER, FROM THE LANGUAGE AGREED ON AT THE MEETING FOR USE IN BRIEFING THE PRESS. AMERICA BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG-YONG ADVISES THAT HE PERSONALLY BRIEFED THE NEWSMEN WITH THE AGREED LANGUAGE, AND THAT THE STORIES RESULTED FROM SPECULATION BY THE PAPERS.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY SALES  
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**Draft Date:** 20 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 SEOUL 2190, 78 SEOUL 2191  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014